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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Selectmen, Town Treasurer, Auditors,

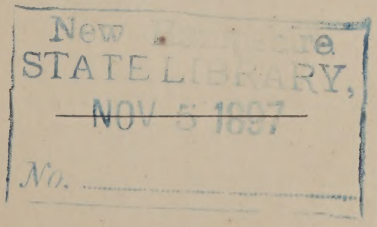
AND

Superintending School Committee

OF THE

TOWN OF PELHAM, N. H.,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1877.



LOWELL, MASS.:
STONE, HUSE & CO., BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS, No. 130 CENTRAL STREET.
1877.

REPORT.

The Selectmen of Pelham respectfully submit the following report:—

PAY OF TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid William G. Butler, bill for services as Selectman, for the year ending March 14, 1876	$ 37 00
Luther C. Richardson, bill for services as Selectman, for the year ending March 14, 1876	87 00
George H. Currier, bill for services as Selectman, for the year ending March 14, 1876	154 00
Amos Bachelder, bill for services as Town Clerk, for the year ending March 14, 1876	30 00
John Woodbury, bill for services as Town Treasurer, for the year ending March 14, 1876	40 00
F. A. Cutter, bill for services as Superintending School Committee, for the year ending March 14, 1876,	40 00
Geo. H. Currier, bill for services as Collector of Taxes, for the year 1875	93 00
	$481 00

PAUPER EXPENSES.

Paid County of Hillsborough, for board of Abbie W. Bean	$ 66 61	
N. H. Asylum, for board of same	111 64	$178 25
G. H. Currier, for board and lodging of transient persons, for the year ending March 1, 1876		6 50
Expenses taking A. W. Bean to Asylum,		4 50
W. G. Butler, for board and lodging transient persons, for the year ending March 1, 1877		28 00
John Woodbury, for goods furnished Woodard family, county paupers	8 76	
L. C. Richardson, for same	7 82	
F. M. Woodbury, for same	12 84	29 42
Amount carried forward		$246 67

Amount brought forward.....		$246 67
Paid L. C. Richardson, for board and lodging transient persons for the year ending March 1, 1877.....		18 00
C. W. Hobbs, for board and lodging transient persons, to March 1, 1877.....		3 00
		$267 67

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Paid E. G. Hobbs, balance of highway money belonging to School District No. 3 for the year 1874, and breaking snow paths in 1875.....	$31 06
O. W. Spaulding, highway money appropriated in 1875.....	28 37
A. F. Carlton, for breaking snow paths.....	21 60
G. B. Currier, labor on highway and breaking snow paths.....	40 79
J. M. Atwood, for labor on bridge.....	1 00
J. W. Durant, for labor on highway and breaking snow paths.....	15 60
J. C. Whitehouse, for breaking snow paths.....	13 22
W. A. Giles, " " "	6 00
S. A. Hatherway, " " "	3 00
John Wilson, for building bridge and breaking snow paths.....	22 55
Moses Hobbs, for breaking snow paths.....	47 52
Calvin Coburn, " " "	26 35
O. W. Spaulding, " " "	24 15
Ralph H. Coburn, " " "	11 67
W. G. Butler, " " "	7 20
Joseph Pearsons, " " "	20 72
L. C. Richardson, " " "	11 90
C. W. Hobbs, for labor on highway.....	3 75
	$336 45

SCHOOL MONEY.

Paid District No. 1, balance of town appropriation for 1875.....	$114 13	
Part of town appropriation for 1876....	141 77	
Literary fund.....	14 35	
Dog money.....	28 83	
		$299 08
Paid District No. 2, balance of town appropriation for 1875.....	$155 76	
Part of town appropriation for 1876....	78 08	
Literary fund.....	15 33	
Dog money.....	28 83	
		278 00
Amount carried forward.....		$577 08

Amount brought forward		$577 08
Paid District No. 3, part of town appropriation for 1875	$216 80	
Literary fund	12 37	
Dog money	28 83	
		258 00
Paid District No. 4, balance of town appropriation for 1875	$153 13	
Part of town appropriation for 1876	87 31	
Literary fund	13 86	
Dog money	28 83	
		283 13
Paid District No. 5, part of town appropriation for 1875	$146 40	
Literary fund	13 86	
Dog money	28 83	
		189 09
Paid Dist. No. 6, town appropriation for 1876	$95 06	
Literary fund	2 47	
Dog money	28 83	
		126 36
Total		$1433 66

Balance due School District No. 1	$121 32
2	185 01
3	390 94
4	175 78
5	281 81
Total	$1154 86

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

Cyrus C. Perkins, dog tax for 1876	$ 1 00
O. W. Spaulding, " "	1 00
Mrs. Murry, " "	1 00
William Titcomb, poll and school-house tax	81
Joseph Lyon, poll tax 1873	1 10
George Copp, tax 1874	14 58
Thomas Hardy, dog tax 1875	1 00
Michael Green, poll tax 1875	1 20
Henry H. Ford, " "	1 20
F. H. Frost, " "	1 20
Edward Golden, " "	1 20
Edwin M. Gray, " "	1 20
Amount carried forward	$26 49

Amount brought forward		$26 49
Allen Gale, poll tax, 1875		1 20
G. L. Hamm, " "		1 20
G. C. Manning, " "		1 20
John Smith, " "		1 20
J. W. York, " "		1 20
John Jackman, " "		1 20
C. P. Hutchinson, " "		1 20
John Jackman, school-house tax		08
		$34 97

TOWN HOUSE.

Received for use of Town House for the year ending March 1, 1877		$96 50
Paid John Woodbury, agent of Town Hall	$ 5 00	
C. W. Hobbs, for care of Town Hall	25 75	
F. M. Woodbury, goods furnished Town Hall	12 62	
John Woodbury, goods furnished Town Hall	4 70	48 07
Net income		$48 43

MISCELLANEOUS.

Paid Cyrus C. Perkins, school-house tax District No. 1	$ 50 00
W. G. Butler, cash paid out for books and stationery	7 00
Nathan Gage, school-house tax District No. 4	24 00
Amos Bachelder, cash paid for record book	4 25
R. B. Hilman, school-house tax District No. 2	30 00
County of Hillsborough, tax	913 61
R. B. Hilman, for repairs of Town Hall	215 45
G. H. Currier, cash paid G. Y. Sawyer as counsel	10 00
G. H. Currier, cash paid for books, stationery, car fare, for the year ending March 14, 1876	7 37
Joshua Searls, for burying horse	50
A. F. Stevens, as counsel	2 00
Daniel Coburn, for cutting bushes in east graveyard,	1 50
John Woodbury, for driving hearse for the year ending March 1, 1877	25 00
John Woodbury, board of Selectmen and expenses paying County tax	10 50
L. C. Richardson, for guide board	2 00
L. C. Richardson, wood for Town Hall	7 00
Stone, Huse & Co., printing town reports for year ending March 1, 1876	22 25
State tax	1612 00
	$2944 43

AMOUNT OF TAXES ASSESSED FOR 1876.

State tax	$1612 00
County tax	913 63
School tax	1410 50
Town tax	500 00
Highway tax	1500 00
School-house tax District No. 1	50 00
" " " " 2	30 00
" " " " 4	24 00
Dog tax	91 00
	$6131 13

WILLIAM G. BUTLER,
LUTHER C. RICHARDSON,
CHARLES W. HOBBS,

Pelham, March 1, 1877. *Selectmen of Pelham.*

TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT.

MARCH 1, 1877.

March 1, 1876. Amount of cash in the treasury	$1386 50
Aug. 16, 1876. Received of G. H. Currier, Collector, the outstanding taxes for 1875, amounting to	1290 18
Amount of interest received on the above	13 37
Received of the Collector, during the year ending March 1, 1877	3990 82
Dec. 1, 1876. Received of the State Treasurer the Savings Bank tax, amounting to	379 88
Amount of Railroad tax from the same	113 41
Received of Harriet Richardson, John Cloyd, William A. Couilliard, B. B. Titcomb, Henry Lewis, William A. Giles and C. W. Spear, for graveyard lots	6 00
March 1, 1877. Received of the Agent for rent of the Town Hall, for the past year	96 50
March 1, 1877. Received of Wm. A. Couilliard, for old hearse sleigh	3 75
Whole amount received during the year ending March 1,	$7280 41

The Treasurer of said town charges the same with the following payments, as ordered by the Selectmen thereof:

To cash on sundry orders during the year ending March 1	$5386 57
March 1, 1877. Leaving a balance in the treasury of	1893 84
" " Outstanding taxes now unpaid and due the town	909 52
	$2803 36

LITERARY FUND.

March 1, 1877. Amount of cash now in the treasury....	$76 50

DOG TAX FUND.

The amount reported March 1, 1876.....	$179 00
Has been appropriated as follows:	
To J. T. Farmer, for the killing of one sheep by dogs....	6 00
The remainder.....	$173 00
Has been divided equally and paid to the several schools in town during the past winter.	
Dog tax fund, now in treasury, March 1, 1877.....	85 00

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE TOWN.

Whole amount of town debt at the present time.....	$3519 11

JOHN WOODBURY,
Town Treasurer.

The subscribers, having been appointed a committee to examine the accounts of the Selectmen and Treasurer of the town of Pelham, for the year ending March 1, 1877, report that we find all orders issued by the Selectmen duly vouched and receipted for, and the Treasurer's accounts correctly kept, accurately cast and properly vouched.

MOODY HOBBS,
GEO. S. BUTLER,
Auditors.

Pelham, March 1, 1877.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Superintending School Committee

FOR THE TOWN OF PELHAM,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1877.

The laws of this Commonwealth require the Superintending School Committee to report the condition of the schools at the annual town meeting in March.

Such a report involves more than some general statistics or remarks upon the success of teachers.

An exact report of the schools must present the educational sentiment of the population. There can be no true representation of the schools in which this sentiment is not the back-ground of the picture. The merit or demerit of every teacher, the success or failure of every school, must be considered from the standpoint of the popular sentiment on education.

It may be stated as a universal principle that the schools will be as this sentiment. They will never rise higher or sink lower. There may be exceptional instances of schools in advance of it or beneath it, but the general character of the schools will be on the plane of this sentiment. Hence all effective effort for the improvement of the schools must be directed to the creation of intelligent views on the subject of education.

It is important that the people should study the annual statistics of the schools; there may be exceptional excellences or failures in instruction to which their attention should be called, but the one thing needed is to place the entire subject of common school education before them in a higher aspect.

DEFECTS IN OUR SYSTEM.

The double management of the Superintending School Committee and the Prudential Committees under the best conditions is an evil. These distinct offices should be merged in one; their respective duties cannot be efficiently discharged except by the same executive authority. It is no exaggeration to say that there is an annual loss of a third of the school money from this cause. Private business managed on such principles would be a failure.

It is manifest that one educational board could care for the interests of the schools of a town more economically than six different committees. Such a board, familiar with all the schools, could select for each the teacher especially needed. There are seasons when one school needs a teacher of higher qualifications and larger compensation than the other schools, and a committee having the charge of all could understand this want and provide such a teacher.

THE ENDS OF EDUCATION.

There should be some correction of the popular notions in regard to these. If education were only to meet the natural wants of life, then but little would be needed. The time children are now kept in school and the money expended for school-houses, books and teachers would be useless. But the object of education is the culture of all the susceptibilities of the intellectual nature, and hence the instruction of the primary school should touch the intellectual

life at every point. No teacher should be placed in our public schools not qualified to do this.

The teacher should know something of the laws of mental action and be able to give oral instruction in the general circle of knowledge. The common phenomena of nature and the scientific principles entering into the detail of ordinary life should be explained in the common school. Children, instead of being kept upon particular rules, should be made familiar with universal laws.

Teaching is an art—a profession. There is nothing in which professional skill is more needful. The State now furnishes schools for the training of teachers, and it is very important that teachers avail themselves of such training. An important part of the instruction of the common school is the correct use of language and the accurate expression of thought, and this can be secured only by trained teachers. Our common schools should educate our homes in accuracy of knowledge.

PARENTAL INFLUENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY.

The parent should not allow anything to divert the attention of his children while attending school. Their punctuality is of the utmost importance. If he doubts the teacher *in the least*, he should not let the child know this.

The studies and classification of the school should be given entirely into the hands of the Committee; in no other way can the efficiency of the schools be secured.

GENERAL EXERCISES.

Composition and elocution should be required of each pupil; a half day at least every fortnight should be devoted to such exercises. Composition may be said to be as important as the alphabet. Were children trained to it from early years, it would be as natural for them to write as to talk.

Singing should form a part of the education of the common school, all the singing talent in the school should be used, and when a teacher cannot sing, it would be well to employ some person once or twice a week to conduct such an exercise.

THE MORAL ELEMENT.

Education without morals is a curse rather than a blessing. The atmosphere of the school-room should be morally pure. Every parent has a right to demand this.

THE COMPENSATION OF TEACHERS.

This should be according to their experience and qualifications, and should in a measure be regulated as the prices of other things—by the supply and demand—and this can not be well ascertained except by conference with committees and educational men in other places.

SCHOOL-HOUSES.

A well-kept and tasty school-room is essential to a good school. The room, house and grounds should be attractive.

THE VIEW TO BE TAKEN OF OUR COMMON SCHOOLS.

They are nurseries of mind. They are not to express any one individual's notion, but the highest idea of the whole community on the subject of education. Our town is among the favored ones of the State. It is one of the eighty of the two hundred and thirty-five towns that have annually twenty weeks of school. With wise management, the appropriation of this town would give each of the five districts thirty weeks of school annually, as much of the year as it is wise for children to be kept in school; and it would furnish instruction that would qualify not only for the usual avocations of life, but that which would truly de-

velop the intellect and embellish the character. The conception of what these our public schools may become under an enlightened and liberal public sentiment is glorious.

The public need to feel that the schools must keep pace with improvements in other things. The farmer would not think of using either the methods or implements of twenty-five years ago. He would fail if he did. There must be a like advance in the methods and implements of the school-room. The common school must be kept abreast of the progress of the age. One thing now needed is to get it out of the ruts of a generation or two.

The schools of the past year have had their usual varying success. Some have been of a high order. Experience, refinement and culture have presided in the school-room, and left its indelible impress through all the days, weeks and months of the school year, nor has there been an instance of any teacher wanting in devotion to the work, but every school has suffered from a want of that moral support that comes from frequent visits of parents, and in no other way can parents have any correct idea of their school.

THE SCHOOLS AND THE TAX-PAYERS.

There is no tax more important than the tax for education. Better pay money for school-houses than court-houses and prisons—for school teachers than officers to enforce the laws. A town may have a noble pride in its liberal appropriations for the cause of education, but the citizen should look after this and see that it is wisely expended and yields the largest possible return. It may be that the citizens of this town, when they pay their taxes, are not aware how large a part of them are for education. This past year the school tax is nearly a third of the entire money tax. The difference is so little that it may be said to be one-third. The person who this year paid a tax of fifteen dollars paid

five dollars of it for the schools; the one that paid thirty dollars paid ten dollars for the schools. It does not seem possible that the citizen can pay his money in such sums and be indifferent how it is expended and what it yields. If the intelligent tax-payers of this town would study the schools and the subject of popular education and give their earnest thought to the question, how their money can be made to yield the largest return, the cause of popular education could not fail to receive an impetus, and the common schools to be greatly improved.

STATISTICS.

District No. 1.—Mr. Daniel N. Atwood, Prudential Committee. Miss Eliza H. Woodbury and Mr. Charles W. Hobbs, Teachers. Length of 1st and 2nd terms, 9 weeks each; the 3rd term, 12 weeks. No. scholars in the 1st term, 26; in the 2nd and 3rd terms, 29. Wages of Teacher, in 1st and 2nd terms, $32; in the 3rd term, $40.

District No. 2.—Mr. Enoch M. Marsh, Prudential Committee. Mrs. Rebecca A. Spear, Teacher. Length of the 1st and 2nd terms, 8 weeks each; the 3rd term, 12 weeks. No. of scholars in the 1st term, 28; in the 2nd term, 32; in the 3rd term, 33. Wages of Teacher in the 1st and 2nd terms, $32; in the 3rd term, $45.

District No. 3.—Mr. Wm. G. Butler, Prudential Committee. Miss M. Lizzie Anderson, of Windham, and Mr. S. P. Gage, Teachers. Length of the 1st and 2nd terms, 10 weeks each; of the 3rd term, 11 weeks. No. scholars in the 1st term, 14; in the 2nd term, 18; in the 3rd term, 21. Wages of Teacher in the 1st term, $30; in the 2nd and 3rd terms, $32.

District No. 4.—Mr. Moses Johnson, Prudential Committee. Miss Mary J. Pelton, of ——, Teacher. Length of 1st and 2nd terms, 8 weeks each; of 3rd term, 10 weeks. No.

of scholars in 1st term, 23; in 2nd term, 22; in 3rd term, 24. Wages of Teacher in 1st and 2nd terms, $34; in 3rd term, $36.

District No. 5.—Mr. Calvin Coburn, Prudential Committee. Miss Susan M. Smith, Teacher. Length of 1st and 2nd terms, 9 weeks each; of 3rd term, 13 weeks. No. of scholars: 1st term, 22; 2nd term, 24; 3rd term, 27. Wages of Teacher, 1st and 2nd terms, $32; 3rd term, $40.

District No. 6.—Mr. John L. Spaulding, Prudential Committee. Miss Alice Gould and Miss Jennie K. Marshall, of Tyngsborough, Mass., Teachers. Length of 1st term, 7 weeks; of 2nd term, 15 weeks. No. of scholars in 1st term, 3; in 2nd term, 4. Wages of Teachers, $22.

The wages of teachers are per month and include board. The teachers, when not otherwise designated, are of this town.

The number of children in town between the ages of 5 and 15, as enumerated by the Selectmen in April, is 124; 63 males and 61 females. The appropriation of the town for schools would amount to $11.37 to each of these scholars.

I am sorry not to be able to furnish in this report more extended statistics, but as part of the schools at the time of writing this have not concluded their term, it is not possible to furnish more. The days of attendance, number of cases of tardiness, and visits of parents, would explain many things in regard to the condition of the schools.

The foregoing suggestions are not offered as the best, but in the hope that they may awaken such reflection upon the subject of common school education as to start the schools of this favored town upon a career of continual progress.

AUGUSTUS BERRY,

PELHAM, March 13, 1877. *Superintending School Committee.*

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